

The President's Daily Brief

19 November 1969

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Top Secret

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy infiltration into South Vietnam will soon reach the level of last year if it continues at the present high rate. *(Page 1)*

Recent Arab military actions are building up pressures on the Israeli leadership to strike back harder. *(Page 2)*

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Military unrest continues to mount in Chile. *(Page 5)*

The Soviet ambassador in Cairo is annoyed with the Egyptian press for misreporting Soviet policy. *(Page 6)*

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NORTH VIETNAM

The sharply increased rate of infiltration, noted in recent issues of The President's Daily Brief, will probably soon reach the level of last year. An intercepted message sent to a major infiltration station near Vinh stated that the Directorate of Rear Services has ordered two groups to move out every day beginning on 20 November. The message gave no indication as to how long this would continue. If, as in the past, each group is battalion size, over 1,000 men could enter the pipeline daily for as long as the flow continued.

A similar signal last year, stating that "from the 4th of December there will be two groups each day," led to major inputs into the pipeline. In December 1968 alone, nearly 28,000 troops were detected moving toward destinations in South Vietnam.

A manpower flow of this magnitude over the next few months would enable the Communists to rebuild their units in the South by early next year.

The travel time for infiltration groups has been shortened considerably. It is now possible for troops headed for provinces around Saigon, for example, to make the trip in less than three months. Last year, infiltrators starting out in December did not reach the III Corps area until March. Those troops were used to replace enemy forces lost during the 1969 Tet offensive.

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ISRAEL

Recent Arab military actions are building up pressures on the Israeli leadership to strike back harder. The Arabs still cannot challenge Israel's over-all superiority, but they have garnered credit in the past few days for inflicting a certain amount of damage on Israeli forces. Egyptian commando operations in Sinai, the activity of frogmen in the Israeli port of Eilat, and Monday's loss of a fighter-bomber to Egyptian antiaircraft fire in Jordan are three examples.

As usual under such circumstances, the hawks in Tel Aviv are said to be advocating drastic action.

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The Israeli cabinet is almost certain to reject most of the hawks' proposals. There will probably be a further increase in cross-border operations, however.

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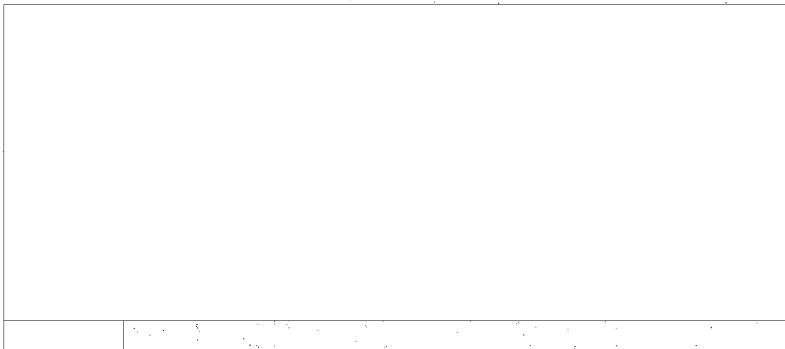
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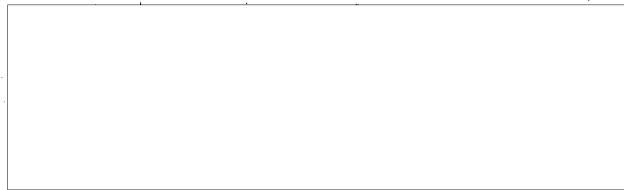
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LEBANON



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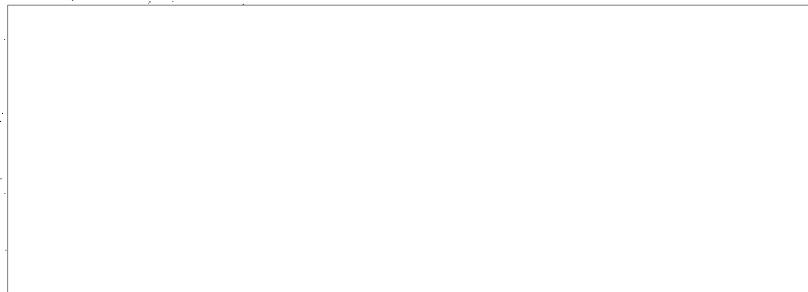
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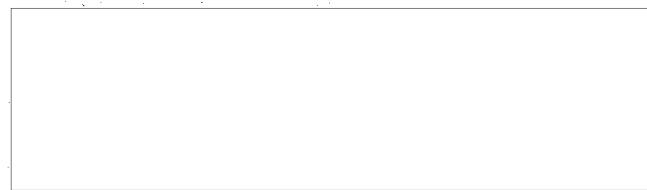
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USSR



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CHILE

Military unrest continues to mount in spite of government concessions since the army uprising last month. Various groups involved in coup plotting are not coordinating their efforts, however, and no clear plan of action has emerged. Some dissidents look for leadership from General Viaux, who led the revolt last month. Viaux insists, however, that the time is not propitious for revolt

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Viaux's trial will be delayed; he had an appendectomy on 17 November. Meanwhile, distrust between the military and government seems to be feeding on itself.

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USSR-UAR

[redacted] Ambassador Vinogradov vehemently denied he had called the latest US peace proposal an "American concoction biased in favor of Israel" as Al Ahram claimed. Vinogradov also dissociated the USSR from Egyptian press stories claiming Israeli forces had participated in US and British naval exercises.

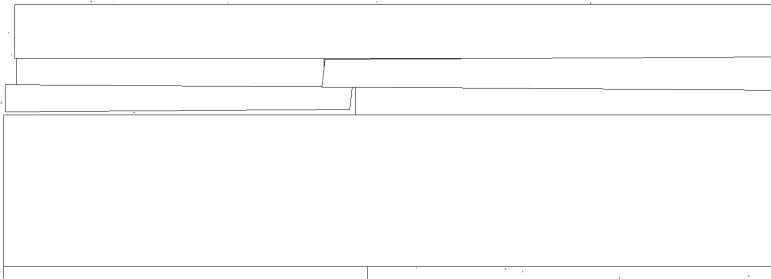
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Vinogradov's pique, though no doubt genuine, will not set back Soviet-Egyptian relations. Nevertheless, his comments do provide further evidence that the Arabs--and especially Cairo--are troublesome allies rather than Soviet puppets.

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SPAIN - UNITED KINGDOM



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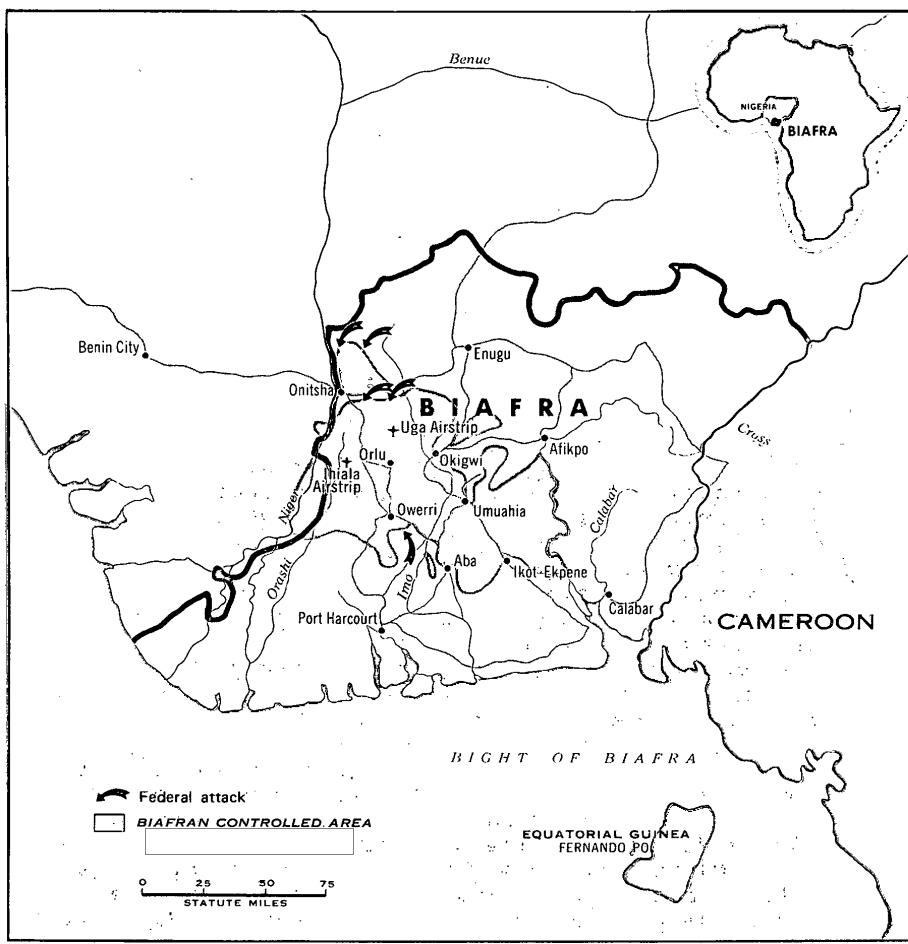
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Nigerian Federal Forces on the Attack



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NOTES

Nigeria: See-saw battles are raging along two fronts. Neither side appears to be making much progress, but federal forces may make some minor gains southeast of Owerri. Federal army units recently received troop reinforcements and are well supplied with munitions. The Biafrans are again short of ammunition.



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